

## **Extended Expiration Date Transportation Worker Identification Credentials**

(EXTERNAL VERSION)

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Program provides a tamper-resistant biometric credential to eligible maritime workers requiring unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities and vessels regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA). To date, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has enrolled more than 2.1 million individuals into the TWIC program and approximately 1.9 million TWIC cards have been activated.

Beginning in August 2012, TSA will offer eligible TWIC holders the opportunity to replace their expiring TWICs with a three-year extended expiration date (EED) TWIC for a reduced fee of \$60. U.S. Coast Guard considers the EED TWIC equivalent to a standard TWIC and will allow port and vessel operators to accept EED TWIC as they accept TWICs issued through the standard enrollment process.

TSA is offering the EED TWIC option to make the re-enrollment process more cost-effective for those individuals who are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals and whose TWICs will *expire on or before December 31, 2014*. Those TWIC holders who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals or who are eligible but do not wish to use the EED TWIC option may renew their expiring TWICs by completing the standard enrollment process for a five-year TWIC, which includes an enrollment fee of \$129.75. The EED TWIC is a one-time temporary extension of the current TWIC; upon the expiration of this three-year EED TWIC, all TWIC holders will be required to enroll for a standard five-year TWIC.

To obtain an EED TWIC, eligible individuals will need to call the TWIC Help Desk at 1-866-347-8942 and make one trip to an enrollment center of their choosing to pick-up and activate the card. The expiration date on the EED TWIC will be three years from the expiration date of the previous TWIC.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why do I need a new card?**

- TWICs provide a tamper-resistant biometric credential to eligible maritime workers requiring unescorted access to secure areas of port facilities and vessels regulated under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002 (MTSA).
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regulations currently require that port facility owners and operators verify that an individual's TWIC has not expired before allowing unescorted access to a secure area.
- Beginning in August 2012, TSA will offer eligible TWIC holders the opportunity to replace their expiring TWICs with a three-year extended expiration date (EED) TWIC for a reduced fee of \$60.00.
  - This extension is being offered due to implementation delays for TWIC card readers. The U.S. Coast Guard considers the EED TWIC equivalent to a standard TWIC and

will allow port and vessel operators to accept EED TWIC as they accept TWICs issued through the standard enrollment process.

- Those TWIC holders who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals or who are eligible but do not wish to use the EED TWIC option, may renew their expiring TWICs by completing the standard enrollment process for a five-year TWIC, which includes an enrollment fee of \$129.75.

#### **How is the three-year EED TWIC card option different from what I have now?**

- The EED TWIC is being offered to eligible TWIC card holders (U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals) only.
- The fee for an EED TWIC is \$60, rather than \$129.75 for a standard TWIC.
- The EED TWIC is valid for three years rather than five years for a standard TWIC.
- The EED TWIC allows current holders the convenience to order the replacement card over the phone and make only one trip to the enrollment center to pick up and activate their card.

#### **Am I eligible for an EED TWIC?**

- To be eligible for an EED TWIC, an individual must meet all three of the following conditions:
  - 1) Be a current holder of a TWIC. Individuals enrolling for a TWIC for the first time are not eligible for an EED TWIC;
  - 2) Have a valid TWIC that expires on or before December 31, 2014. Individuals whose TWICs expire after December 31, 2014 or whose TWICs have been revoked are not eligible for an EED TWIC;
  - 3) Be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national. Individuals who are not currently U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals are not eligible for an EED TWIC.

#### **What is meant by U.S. national?**

- The term “U.S. national” encompasses both U.S. citizens and noncitizen nationals of the United States (primarily American Samoans and Swains Islanders).

#### **What do I need to do to renew my TWIC?**

- U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals whose TWICs will expire on or before December 31, 2014 will have two options to renew their TWIC:
  - A three-year EED TWIC – \$60 replacement card fee for the three-year EED TWIC. Current TWIC card holders who are U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals may apply for the EED TWIC over the phone at 1-866-347-8942 and make a single trip to a TWIC enrollment center to pick up and activate their cards, *or*
  - A five-year Standard TWIC – standard fee of \$129.75 for a five-year TWIC. This option requires the standard TWIC enrollment process and two visits to an enrollment center.
- TWIC holders who are not eligible for an EED TWIC (including Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States) must re-enroll for the standard five-year TWIC.

**What is the process for getting the three-year EED TWIC?**

- To obtain an EED TWIC, eligible individuals should first call the TWIC Help Desk at 1-866-347-8942. The Help Desk representative will then validate the individual's eligibility for an EED TWIC. Additional information about this process is provided at [www.tsa.gov/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/twic).
- Once TSA determines that the TWIC holder meets the eligibility requirements for the EED TWIC, the individual will be able to pick up and activate the EED TWIC at an enrollment center of his/her choosing. Individuals requesting an EED TWIC should do so at least 30 days before the expiration of their current TWIC.
- The individual should turn in the original TWIC upon receipt of the EED, as it will be revoked at the time of activation of the EED TWIC.
- The expiration date on the EED TWIC will be three years from the expiration date of the previous TWIC. Upon expiration of the three-year EED TWIC, all individuals will be required to obtain a five-year TWIC.

**Why can't non-U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals get the three-year EED TWIC?**

- TWIC holders who are Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) and non-resident aliens are subject to checks to verify lawful immigration status.
- The immigration status check is part of standard five-year TWIC renewal, but not part of the EED TWIC process.

**When will the three-year EED TWIC be available?**

- Beginning in August 2012, TSA will offer eligible TWIC holders the opportunity to replace their expiring TWICs with a three-year extended expiration date (EED) TWIC. Once TSA determines whether the TWIC holder meets the eligibility requirements for the EED TWIC, the individual will be able to pick up and activate the EED TWIC at a TWIC enrollment center of his/her choosing.

**How soon before my TWIC expires do I need to apply for a new TWIC or, if I am eligible, for an EED TWIC?**

- Individuals should request an EED TWIC at least 30 days before the expiration of their current TWIC.

**I am not a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and must re-enroll for a standard five-year TWIC.****Why do I still need to make two trips to an enrollment center to get it?**

- The standard renewal process for a five-year TWIC requires an initial trip to capture a recent photograph and fingerprints and then a second trip to pick-up and activate your card.
- The information provided in the first trip is used for the security threat assessment.
- The in-person activation of the card during the second trip ensures that the person picking up the card is the appropriate cardholder.

**I am a U.S. citizen or a U.S. national and plan to enroll for an EED TWIC. What happens when this new card expires?**

- Since the EED TWIC is only a one-time temporary extension of the TWIC, upon the expiration of this three-year EED TWIC, an individual will be required to enroll for a standard five-year TWIC.

**How does this policy impact merchant mariners?**

- Merchant Mariners are eligible to choose between the three-year or five-year option (depending upon their citizenship status), and their information will continue to be communicated to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for the purpose of issuing their Merchant Mariner Credential.

**How will deploying TWIC readers to ports affect TWIC holders?**

- TWIC readers are used to electronically validate that a TWIC has not expired or been revoked.
- The USCG is working to complete a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) requiring certain vessels and facilities to install and use TWIC readers. Facility owner and operators may use TWIC readers to validate the TWICs and EED TWICs electronically as part of access control procedures for secure areas.
- Persons accessing secure areas of MTSA-regulated vessels and facilities will be subject to electronic verification of their TWICs or EED TWICs on a random basis using portable TWIC readers.

**When does DHS expect TWIC readers to be deployed?**

- Readers are currently being used in more than 20 ports around the country.
- The U.S. Coast Guard intends to publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking by the end of 2012 to seek comment on card reader requirements and deployment requirement plans.
- By the end of the three year extension period, pending the outcome of this rulemaking activity, DHS expects to have card reader requirements in place, and readers will be deployed at the facilities with the highest risk. DHS will publish a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to seek comment on card reader requirements and deployment requirement plans.

For more information please contact the TWIC Help Desk at 1-866-347-8942 or reference [www.tsa.gov/twic](http://www.tsa.gov/twic).